

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."  
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TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 30, 1920.

## THE AMERICAN'S CREED.

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

## KEEP THE MINES WORKING.

YESTERDAY'S announcement by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, that there will be no suspension of mining on the first of April even though a new wage contract has not been completed by that time, will be pleasing intelligence not only to the coal mining regions but throughout the entire country.

It would be doubly unfortunate if there were to be a suspension of mining now. The country needs the coal and the miners themselves would lose money without the slightest prospect of gaining compensating advantages. President Lewis and the other leaders of the Mine Workers realize this clearly, and it is to be hoped that the men who make public opinion in the districts and the local organizations will follow their example.

All indications now point to an early and entirely amicable adjustment of all differences at the conference which began at New York yesterday. It is apparent from the remarks made by representatives of both operators and Mine Workers that all the bitterness and most of the mutual misunderstanding has disappeared during the events which have occurred since the scale controversy opened last October, and that there is now a genuine desire to come to an understanding and enter the new year with a determination to work together to get some of the big problems of the industry solved in a permanent way.

It is scarcely necessary to call attention to what the successful carrying out of this program would mean for every one in the Fairmont district. It means, among other things, a degree of prosperity, collectively and individually, as never was enjoyed here before. In the circumstances it is to be hoped that there will not be the slightest opposition locally to the plan to keep the mines running regularly pending the completion of the negotiations now going on in New York.

## ALL FOOL'S DAY.

AND comes next Thursday, All Fool's Day, and the peculiar brand of American humor will be displayed all over this broad land by the revival of two classic All Fool's Day jokes.

On a thousand sidewalks will roll a thousand apparently fat wallets, presumably dropped by some fussy old gentleman in taking out his handkerchief. But if one stoops to gather it in, it will move off with a jerk as a thing of life. Perhaps a crowd of boys behind a fence or hedge will laugh and shout as they reset their trap for another victim.

On a thousand sidewalks, too, on this eventful day, some innocent-looking paper boxes will recline, just in the way

of passing pedestrians. But when they (there is an inborn desire to kick a box) rest their toes against the paper shell, backed by the force of a violent kick, oh, who would have thought that there was a brick of regulation size concealed by the pasteboard! That is American humor as it is. Critics may make the most of it.

Of course there will be April Fool parties, where button molds will be covered with chocolate, pill boxes filled with salt and iced as small cakes, marshmallows dipped in quinine and candies loaded with red pepper, to say nothing of the thousands of explosive cigars that will be generously distributed on that day.

In France All Fool's Day is called "Poisson d'Avril," meaning "fish of April," signifying that one is easily caught. And it must be said that probably there are as many fish in the sea as ever were caught, and the first of the month will prove it.

## SUPPORT THE Y. M. C. A.

TODAY the real work of raising the Y. M. C. A. budget for the next fiscal year began, and the way it results will furnish a fine insight into the state of the public mind in Fairmont. Last year, it might as well be admitted frankly, the financial effort was a disappointment. At the time, however, it was rather easy to understand just what had happened. The country was in the worst period of the doldrums which followed the end of the war. Mining in the region was at a low ebb. The business situation was far from clear and many of the people who usually support such a movement liberally had not yet recovered from the sacrifices they made during the period when the United States was actively in the war. There was, in short, both a psychological and a material let-down.

Conditions are very different now. In spite of the very limited financial resources the Y. M. C. A. put in one of the most useful years in the career of the local association. The activities and the influence of the trained workers employed in the organization were expanded. A great amount of positive good can be traced directly to this expansion. Today the Y. M. C. A. is a bigger and more important influence for good in the community than it ever was before, and it ought to be able to appeal with entire confidence to the people of Fairmont for more generous support than it ever got before.

In spite of the growing pains which have been a constant in Fairmont during the past several years, Fairmont has never yet quit. There is a record of consistent growth along all lines which ought to, and does, thrill every loyal resident of the city with civic pride. This newspaper believes firmly that the best way in which to make a tangible demonstration of that pride is by supporting the Y. M. C. A. to the limit. The goal set by General Secretary Cash and the hard working board of directors may seem large, but in reality it is not a dollar more than is needed to keep the work going. Therefore when you are approached by the workers throw in your support with entire cheerfulness and as generously as you possibly can.

Elihu Root, who appeared in the Supreme court yesterday on behalf of Feigenspan, the brewer, who, along with the whiskey interests of Kentucky and the states of Rhode Island and New Jersey, is trying to upset the Eighteenth amendment to the federal constitution, practically asked the court to find that there is a limit to the power of amendment to the constitution. His position may shock a lot of folks, but the thinking element among the people ought to be glad that the question has been raised in this frank and straightforward manner and that the court will find it impossible to pass upon the various liquor cases now before it without fully discussing the issue raised by Mr. Root. If the right to amend the constitution is unlimited that document in the course of a few years could be made to look like the constitution of the state of Oklahoma if the public was not fully informed regarding the great responsibility it assumes every time a proposed change in the constitution comes up for consideration.

The French, who discovered that the Germans have been concealing great quantities of artillery, announced yesterday that German regular army troops have been sent into the occupied zone without waiting for permission of the Supreme council. Can't the Germans be trusted to carry out in good faith any part of the peace treaty? No wonder the French are beginning to feel that they are up against the same old menace and that now that the United States has failed to ratify the treaty or join in the league they must arm to the teeth all over again.

Yesterday the city government promised representatives of the Civic department of the Women's club to cooperate heartily in plans for an annual cleaning up period about the middle of April, and now all hands should get set for a thoroughgoing spring cleaning. The neatness or lack of neatness is one of the most unerring indications of the civic ideal of any town. A neat town means a good people and the other kind means people of quite the reverse quality. It is because this is universally conceded that the Woman's club and the city authorities have always put so much emphasis upon keeping Fairmont looking clean and neat.

it as if a Huntington or Charleston man said it.

Have you kicked in for the Y. M. C. A. yet?

That's a good thing.

And you want to keep up your score of being in on all the good things the town holds.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POLITICS AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

FAIRMONT, W. Va., March 30.—(Editor The West Virginian)—Is the position of Sunday school superintendent in Fairmont a political office? Is the position of head of an important Sunday school a stepping stone to political preferment?

This possibility came to mind not long ago when a minister in addressing ministers made a suggestion for a new method of holding service. He observed: "The great drawback is that it lessens the influence of the Sunday school superintendent and if you don't already realize it, you will learn when trying this innovation that the Sunday school superintendent is a person of great power in the church."

J. Walter Barnes, superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school in Fairmont for 31 years has been principal of the Fairmont Normal school, city commissioner, fuel administrator for West Virginia in war-time, chairman of the Council of Defense and is now advanced to a place as a member of the Board of Public Works.

W. W. Conway, superintendent of the Peoples Temple Sunday school,

was elected justice of the peace and then pressed into service as city commissioner as though there were not enough men to fill the vacant offices. After being elected commissioner he was chosen as mayor over W. E. Arnett, and Z. F. Davis, who are more active churchmen without being Sunday school superintendents.

H. T. Jones, superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, Sunday school is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for clerk of the circuit court.

C. W. Evans, superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school, was secretary of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce (a position which it requires political pull to obtain) was fuel administrator for Marion county during the war.

Do these things just happen or is there some set policy on the part of "an invisible government?"

I no more than formulate these thoughts in my mind than I pick up The West Virginian and see that there is talk of a woman superintendent of the First Presbyterian Sunday school and if my memory serves me right there was some agitation for woman suffrage in this state recently which led to the calling of an extra session of the legislature. Is woman going into politics via the superintendent of Sunday school route?

Yours inquiringly,  
WALLACE PEPPEL

Soldiers returning from France, brought home 3709 foreign brides of which 2295 were French and 1101 British, while the rest were of 16 other nationalities.

It is thought that the \$500,000,000 worth of silk which the United States imported each year from China, Japan, Armenia, France and other countries might be produced at home with enormous profit.

MADGE EVANS HATS  
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Many Women Have Been Waiting For These Suits Which Bear the Splendidly Low Price of

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Made of very good quality Wool Jersey in Copen, Brown, Heather and Gray, and made in a variety of clever styles, suitable for either sports or street wearing. Newer and more correct than any suit you have ever seen, because they have just come forth from their New York designers. The supply is limited and women who usually anticipate their needs for Spring and summer will do well to make early selections.

## A Special Offering of Sports Coats

Our popular rack of "General Service" Coats—as the new season's modes are sometimes called—has been enlarged by the addition of a new shipment. It includes some very desirable styles in Camel's Hair Cloth, Polo Cloth, English mixtures and velour. If you are seeking a coat at an economical figure it is likely to be on this rack

Specially Priced

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# Spring Frocks

—and you certainly would know the reason is a good one if you, too, would come and inspect these exceptional offerings. They are Frocks made of good satins, taffetas, serges and jersey. Most of them are navy blue and black, but any number of other popular colors are mixed in. All the styles are new and correct to the minute. We assure you that

Any One of These Prices

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Will Purchase a Very Smart Frock

But if you should want to go higher—to obtain a Frock of ultra-smartness and serviceability—we suggest your consideration of our charming assortment priced at \$45.00 to \$95.00. Some of the cleverest Frocks that have come to town this season are among them. Dozens of women have already chosen Frocks from this assortment to complete their Easter wardrobes.

## "Maid Marion" Dresses

This exclusive line offers exact reproductions of the newest imported Dresses. Taffeta and Georgettes are the most favored fabrics although we are showing some excellent serge and tricot models bearing the "Maid Marion" label. Embroidery, frills, Turkish skirts, accordion pleats, bouffant hip lines and many new features distinguish these smart Dresses.

\$65.50 to \$115.50

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